

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/763,942

Examiner

Romain Jeanty

Applicant(s)

YAMADERA ET AL.

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/10/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 14-22, 24 and 25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

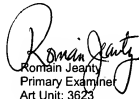
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 3623

Art Unit: 3623

1. This Allowance is in response to the communication received on June May 10, 2007 and the interview conducted with applicant's representative on June 2007.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David P. Emery on June 18, 2007.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims:

14. (currently amended): A process for work management comprising:
determining a conformity standard for the work to be managed;
selecting a managing method of the work to be managed from among a plurality of managing methods classified in advance based on the conformity standard;
breaking down the work into a plurality of activities; and
monitoring a quality of performance for each of the activities; and
means for determining operating classification used by the management system, the operating classification, A1, A2, and.... which are two or more patterns determined beforehand

Art Unit: 3623

about a combination flow of an operating process, a series of operating processes a_{ij} ($j=1-n_i$), which constitute each, to each operating classification A_i ($i=1-m$) is made to correspond, where all activities are defined by:

$$\sum_{i=1}^m A_i + \sum_{i=1}^k B_i + \sum_{i=1}^l C_i + \dots$$

$$A_i = \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} a_{ij}, B_i = \sum_{j=1}^{s_i} b_{ij}, C_i = \sum_{j=1}^n c_{ij}.$$

15. (previously presented): The process for work management according to claim 14, further comprising displaying at least one of:

- (a) work progress;
- (b) a schedule for each activity; and
- (c) quality performance for at least one of the entire work and each of the activities.

16. (previously presented): The process for work management according to claim 14, wherein the quality of performance for the activities is recorded.

17. (previously presented): The process for work management according to claim 14, wherein the process is deployed over a network.

18. (previously presented): The process for work management according to claim 14, wherein the process is performed by software operable to display data tables in a Web server.

Art Unit: 3623

19. (previously presented): The process for work management according to claim 14, wherein the process is deployed over at least one of an intranet or the Internet.

20. (previously presented): The process for work management according to claim 14, further comprising determining and at least one of recording and displaying information on an in-house man day and a subcontract man day.

21. (previously presented): The process for work management according to claim 14, further including controlling access to the determining, selecting, and monitoring.

22. (currently amended): A business management system comprising:
data storing means for storing information on an authorized person in charge and a conformity standard for work to be managed;

work registering means by which the authorized person in charge selects a managing method of the work to be managed from among a plurality of managing methods classified in advance;

management process display means for displaying managed processes determined for each management method;

time limit display means for displaying a time limit determined by the authorized person in charge for each managed process;

adherence standard display means for displaying adherence standards related to the managed processes;

Art Unit: 3623

quality standard means for displaying a quality of performance for each managed process; and

recording means for recording system data; and

means for determining operating classification used by the management system, the operating classification, A_i, A₂, and.... which are two or more patterns determined beforehand about a combination flow of an operating process, a series of operating processes a_{ij} (j=1-n_i), which constitute each, to each operating classification A_i (i=1-m) is made to correspond, where all activities are defined by:

$$\sum_{i=1}^m A_i + \sum_{i=1}^k B_i + \sum_{i=1}^l C_i + \dots$$

$$\underline{A_i = \sum_{j=1}^{n_i} a_{ij}, B_i = \sum_{j=1}^{s_i} b_{ij}, C_i = \sum_{j=1}^{t_i} c_{ij} .}$$

23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented): The business management system according to claim 22, wherein the managed processes conform to a quality standard.

25. (previously presented): The business management system according to claim 24, wherein the quality standard is at least one of the ISO 9000 standards.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 14-22, and 24-25 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

4. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 14 and 23: The closest prior art is to Nummelin (U.S. Patent No. 6,308,164) and Reeves (US Patent No. 5,709,410). Nummelin discloses a project management system including a database server for storing project management information, creating project data objects such as projects, project tasks and resources. The system can include a data transport system for transferring the project management information between the workstation and a centralized database server. Reeves teaches a development project schedule system which has a bar chart bar for each listed construction task scaled to the days required to complete a task. However, the combination of Nummelin and Reeves does not teach determining operating classification used by the management system, the operation classification, A1, A2, and Which are two or more patterns determined beforehand about a combination flow of an operating process, a series of operating processes a_{ij} ($j=1-n_i$), which constitute each, to each operating classification A_i ($i=1-m$) is made to correspond, where all activities are defined by:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n A_i + \sum_{i=1}^k B_i + \sum_{i=1}^l C_i + \dots$$

$$A = \sum_{j=1}^m a_j, B = \sum_{j=1}^n b_j, C = \sum_{j=1}^p c_j$$

Claims 15-21, and 24-25 depend from independent claims 14 and 22; therefore claims 15-21, and 24-25 are allowed for the same reasons indicated above.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

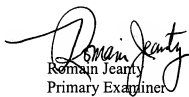
a. Flores (WO94/18620) discloses a method for managing business process.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R. Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3623
June 25, 2007